



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO Department of Agriculture/Measurement Standards

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January 22, 2007

Henry R. Renteria, Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schriever Ave.
Mather, CA 95655

Re: Request for Designation of Disaster for San Luis Obispo County

Dear Mr. Renteria:

San Luis Obispo County experienced significant damage to agriculture from extreme low temperatures, with extended duration periods, from January 12 through January 17, 2007. Temperatures were reported as low as 20 degrees in avocado and citrus growing locations, 14 degrees in vegetable and nursery production areas, and 3 degrees in vineyard production areas of the county.

We are estimating a 60% loss of the 2007 avocado crop with a comparable loss projected for the 2008 crop due to extensive damage to fruiting wood. Citrus crops are estimated to suffer a 50% loss for the 2007 crop.

The county's strawberry crop is estimated to suffer a 15% annual reduction in production, vegetable crops reductions ranging from 5-10% for 2007, and overall nursery stock losses estimated at 1%.

Wine grape growing regions reached bitter cold with multiple nights below 10 degrees and extended periods of cold in the range of 10-20 degrees. Damage will not be known until this spring when dormant plants begin to grow.

We estimate the total losses for the 2007 season to be \$26,000,000. Attached is the California County Agricultural Disaster Report outlining individual crop losses.

Those estimates are limited to projected crop losses and do not include other significant cost to the agricultural industry due to this extremely unusual event. Additional cost such as preventative measures to prevent damage, additional labor and energy costs, and replacement costs are not included in this estimate.

Renteria ltr.
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This information can be used for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Designation of Disaster for San Luis Obispo County.

Sincerely,

Bob Lilley
Agricultural Commissioner

cc: Board of Supervisors, San Luis Obispo County
David Edge, San Luis Obispo County Emergency Services Director
Jennifer Anderson, USDA Farm Services Agency
A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture